

Iлона Lahdelma

Juan March Institute, Carlos III
135, Calle Madrid, 28903, Getafe
Madrid, Spain
✉ ilahdelm@clio.uc3m.es

Assistant Professor in political science and political methodology at the Carlos III University, Madrid, Spain and junior research fellow at the Juan March Institute. Editorial Assistant at the British Journal of Political Science. Visiting researcher at Aalto University School of Business, Department of Economics.

Education

- 2016 - 2020 **DPhil (PhD) in Political Science**, *Department of Politics and International Relations*, University of Oxford, UK.
Thesis Title: Refugees and Local Politics: Elite and Citizen Responses to Asylum Seekers. A paper-based thesis in Political Sociology.
- 2012–2014 **Erasmus Mundus Master's degree in Regional Development**, *École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales*, Paris, France.
- 2011–2013 **Master's degree in History**, *University of Tampere*, Finland.
- 2008–2012 **Bachelor's degree in International Relations, minoring in Political Science**, *University of Tampere*, Finland.
- 2007–2011 **Bachelor's degree in History**, *University of Tampere*, Finland.

Visiting scholarships

- Spring 2019 **Visiting student**, *European University Institute*, Florence, Italy.
- 2010–2011 **Erasmus exchange**, *Sciences Po*, Paris, France.

Publications

- 2023 *Do local economic benefits of asylum seekers lead to more support for local refugee intake?*
Forthcoming in the *Journal of Politics*.
This paper implements a difference-in-differences design to estimate the impact of housing asylum seekers on refugee policies at the local level.
- 2016 *Radicalism in Hungarian Civil Society*, in *Eternal Return? The Specter of Radicalism among Young People in Europe and Hungary*

Research in Progress

After the arrivals: How rural and urban citizens differ in their responses to asylum seekers.

This paper makes use of a survey relying on the as-if-random allocation of asylum seekers in different Finnish municipalities to measure what citizens report about their experiences and how it affected their immigration preferences.

Taking our Jobs? Foreign Labour Contributions and Native Preferences for Banning Laws.
Manuscript in preparation with Spyros Kosmidis.

This project investigates with two survey experiments how people's willingness to a) grant a right to work to asylum seekers b) to revise immigration policies is shaped by the perceived economic contributions in the UK.

Poor Peasants as Voters: Evidence from the First Democratic Elections in Spain. Manuscript in preparation with Jordi Domènech, Pablo Martinelli and Pedro Diz.

This paper assesses the electoral impacts of land reform among poor peasants in the contexts of the 1931, 1933 and 1936 elections with detailed constituency-level data about turnout and voting records.

Projects

The inter-generational effects of forced displacement. Project together with Elias Dinas, Dominik Hangartner, and Matti Sarvimäki.

This project aims to discover the effect that forced war-time displacement has had on survivors and their offspring in two generations. Through this survey we are able to see how war-time displacement and having to leave one's home permanently affects political preferences and how this possibly changes across generations.

Related working papers

Forced displacement shapes personality traits across generations. Manuscript in preparation with Dominik Hangartner, Matti Sarvimäki, and Maarit Olkkola.

This paper investigates with a spatial regression discontinuity design with Finnish registry data how personality traits are shaped by being forcefully displaced in the past.

Grants Awarded

- 2022 **Yrjö Jahansson Foundation** EUR 3,300 towards data access and travel costs for studying forced displacement of Finnish Karelian refugees.
- 2020 **Emil Aaltonen Foundation** EUR 5,000 towards running a survey.
- 2019 **The Association for the Enhancement of Karelian Culture** EUR 13,000 towards a survey.
- 2018 **The Ella and Georg Ehrnrooth Foundation** EUR 26,000 towards my PhD project.
- 2018 **The Finnish Konkordia League** EUR 8,000 towards my PhD project.
- 2018 **The Karelian Culture Foundation** EUR 10,000 towards a survey.
- 2018 **The Karelian League** EUR 2,000 towards a survey.
- 2017 **The Ella and Georg Ehrnrooth Foundation** EUR 24,000 towards my PhD project.

Scholarships

- 2019 Oxford Scatcherd European Scholarship, GBP 1,500 towards a term at the EUI.
- 2018 Oxford Q-Step Graduate Scholarship, GBP 6,000.
- 2017–2019 Brasenose College Senior Hulme Scholarship, GBP 250/annum + dining rights.

Teaching Experience

Graduate teaching experience

- Spring 2022 **Advanced Research Methods in Social Sciences: Experimental Designs, Universidad Carlos III, Madrid.**
- Spring 2023 **Causal Inference, Universidad Carlos III, Madrid.**
- Fall 2019 **Teaching assistant: Introduction to Statistics, University of Oxford.**
Assisting Dr Nelson Ruiz by teaching and preparing the lab sessions for the course.

- Fall 2018 **Teaching assistant: Introduction to Statistics, University of Oxford.**
Assisting Dr Nelson Ruiz and Professor Robin Harding by teaching and preparing the lab sessions for the course. Teaching involved private tutorials for a visually impaired student.
- August 2018 **ECPR Summer School in Methods and Techniques, Budapest, Hungary.**
Teaching assistant to Professor Elias Dinas for the course *Causal Inference in the Social Sciences II: Difference in Difference, Regression Discontinuity and Instruments*, course assistance and grading.
- [Undergraduate teaching experience](#)
- 2022–present **Evaluation of Public Policies, Universidad Carlos III, Madrid.**
- 2021–present **Interdisciplinary research Design in the Social Sciences, Universidad Carlos III, Madrid.**
- 2018–2020 **Tutor in Political Sociology, University of Oxford.**
- 2017–2019 **Tutor in Comparative Government, University of Oxford.**
- Spring 2019 **Tutor in Political Methodology, University of Oxford.**

Conference and Workshop Presentations

- June 2022 *Taking our jobs? Foreign labour contributions and native preferences for banning laws* , presented at the **2022 EPSA conference** in Prague.
- March 2022 *After the arrivals. How rural and urban citizens differ in their responses to asylum seekers*, presented at the workshop **Hosting Refugees: National Policies and Local Communities**, at Bicocca University, Milan
- June 2021 *After the arrivals. How rural and urban citizens differ in their responses to asylum seekers*, presented at **Virtual EPSA**
- June 2021 *Taking our Jobs? Foreign Labour Contributions and Native Preferences for Banning Laws* , presented at **Virtual EPSA**
- April 2021 *After the arrivals. How rural and urban citizens differ in their responses to asylum seekers*, presented at **Virtual MPSA**
- December 2019 *To take or not to take? Pre-election pledges about refugee intake in rural and urban areas*, presented at the **Conference on Comparative Research on Political Elites**, Hertie School of Government (with a travel grant by organizers), Berlin, Germany.
- June 2019 *To take or not to take? Explaining the formation of politicians' stances on refugee intake*, presented at the **2019 European Political Science Association's (EPSA)** annual conference, Belfast, UK.
- June 2018 *Asylum seekers and political representation*, presented at the **2018 European Political Science Association's (EPSA)** annual conference, Vienna, Austria.
- April 2018 *Asylum seekers and political representation*, presented at the **2018 European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR)** joint sessions (with ECPR grant), Nicosia, Cyprus.

Invited Talks and Discussant roles

- February 2022 *After the arrivals. How rural and urban citizens differ in their responses to asylum seekers*, presented at the the **WZB, Berlin, Transition of Democracies Series**, Invited by Professor Daniel Ziblatt, online
- June 2021 Discussant at the EPSA 2021 Panel *Rural Foundations of the Populist Vote*, virtual EPSA

- April 2021 Discussant at the MPSA 2021 Panel *Immigration Attitudes*, virtual MPSA
- April 2021 Discussant at the 2nd European Bank for Reconstruction and Development & King's College London Workshop on the Economics and Politics of Migration, Invited by the organizers Cevat Giray Aksoy (EBRD & KCL), Konstantinos Matakos (KCL) and Pierre-Louis Vezina (KCL), online

Service

Convener of the Internal Seminar of the Juan March Institute
 Reviewer for the *Journal of Politics* and the *British Journal of Political Science*

Impact

- 2021 The largest Finnish daily newspaper **Helsingin Sanomat** published an extensive Sunday Supplement article about the findings of my thesis, discussing how rural areas in Finland are willing to take immigrants.
- 2020 Invited expert to participate in the **Finnish Broadcasting Company's** documentary *Finland is rural* to discuss rural areas willingness to accommodate refugees.
- 2018–2019 **European Commission, Enlightenment 2.0 Project:** Writing a state-of-the-art literature review on immigration attitudes to better understand European political behavior.
- November 2019 **The Finnish Social Democratic Party's** annual memorial lecture of late President Mauno Koivisto, keynote speech titled *Is populism good for democracy?*

Technical Skills

Statistical software STATA, R

Languages

Finnish Native
 Hungarian Native
 English Excellent
 French Excellent
 Swedish Good
 German Basic